Haunted Halls?

By Miss Riebel

As a student here at PHS in the 80’s, students often heard about the resident ghost. He was rumored to have died here in the school, so his spirit was forced to forever be on the watch for bad things happening. The story had existed since the 60’s and continued into the 90’s but few people today seem to have had much interaction with Max.

Max Mills was a principal here in the 1960’s. During one school holiday he suffered a heart attack and died but it was not here in the building. Since then students, teachers and custodial staff have often reported strange events.

Mrs. Rhonda Smith has one such tale. “About 8 years when I was teaching in the annex, I was in my office after everyone had went home. Just the Janitors were on duty. But they weren’t in the annex at the time. I was working on the computer when I heard the door creek. I thought oh it is just one of the janitors coming in to sweep the room. Then I heard it again, this time the door shut. I went out and investigated. The door was shut and I had it open. I looked in the hall and walk all around the area. No one was around. I thought, oh my it must be Max the ghost coming to visit. I quickly turned off my computer, gathered my things, and got the heck out of there.”

Personally, when my room was up on the fourth floor it was fairly common for the doors to open about half a foot, stay open for a few moments and slowly close. It was almost like a person opened the door to peak inside and then quietly closed it to step away.

Max is largely known for this behavior. He is rumored to have especially loved music and the arts. Don’t be surprised if you are in the auditorium to see the doors open slightly for a few moments without anyone ever entering the room.

Max also enjoys tormenting custodial staff during the evening hours. Brooms left leaning against walls will often suddenly crash to the floor. This can be really creepy in the late hours when many of the lights are out and there are few people in the building.

Max has never caused any harm to anyone but the next time your classroom door opens for a few moments you can call out “Mr. Mills everything is okay in here, have a nice afterlife!”

Recently, I was sent a clip from a very old newspaper about a murder at Peoria High School. Now this happened in 1903 so it would not have been in this building which was not built until 1916.

The investigation revealed that he was killed during a robbery of the school safe. Today this would seem unlikely with direct pay, but then the school safe would have likely held payroll money for the staff.
Editorial Policy

The Opinion has a tradition of as one of the oldest school newspapers in the country. The advisors and editors wish to honor the diversity represented in the school and greater Peoria community. Contributors to the Opinion will be held to basic journalistic principles and standards.

Student editors will work with advisors to develop a content plan. Staff writers will submit planned articles. Any student may openly submit an article for consideration. It is the intent of the editorial staff to produce five electronic issues during the 2021-2022 school year.

It is undeniable that students are protected in their exercise of freedom of expression by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. Accordingly, it is the responsibility of school officials to insure the maximum freedom of expression of all students.

It is the policy of the Peoria Board of Education that The Opinion has been established as a Peoria High School sponsored forum for student expression. As such, it will provide students an opportunity to inquire, question and exchange ideas.

The Opinion stands behind the policy set in the Speech Rights of Student Journalists Act that states that shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publication EXCEPT for material that is libelous, slanderous or obscene; constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy; violates federal or state law; and/or incites students to commit an unlawful act. (105 ILCS 80/15)

The freedom of speech does not prevent the school staff editing work to address professional standards of journalism and English. School staff may work with students to edit and revise articles to meet these guidelines. All Opinion staff have been made aware of this act and how it applies to their writing.

No expression made by students in the exercise of their freedom speech or press shall be deemed to be an expression of school policy.

Photo Opinion

What is your favorite thing to do for Halloween?

“Scare People”
~ Tuison Connor

“Have a party”
~ Jakayla Thurmond

“Scare kids”
~ John Johnson

“Just Chill”
~ Demarcus Young

“Go to a Haunted House”
~ Shelia Trevino

“Get Candy”
~ Lucas Armstrong

“Watch scary movies”
~ Zameia Leas

Opinion Staff

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Ms. Riebel & Mrs. Slutz

Writers

Other Contributors
Jupiter Nehrig, Artwork
Mrs. Cannon
Mr. Mahan
WHAT ARE STUDENTS UP

As the school year moves ahead full speed PHS students engage in a variety of activities in school and outside the classroom.

Students in Mrs. Cannons class work together on a map activity as they study World War I. Mr. Mahan’s class pose to show off the hard work they did.

The Freshmen Academy had a spirit week. The teachers showed off their mismatch fashions showing they rock school spirit.

In AP Language, juniors revisit their notes and do additional research to make connections among people, texts and themes in colonial America.

Senior Mickael Brown volunteered for the Peoria Art Guild Fine Arts Fair, a once-a-year fair at the River Front. He did it to contribute to our community. He volunteered Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th.
Senior Caroline Kellerstrass gets ready to putt at Ironwood Golf Course in Normal at the 2021 Big 12 Girls Golf Championships. She shot 114 and finished tied for 21st.

Junior Khennedy Adkins-Dutro lines up a putt Ironwood Golf Course in Normal at the 2021 Big 12 Girls Golf Championships. She finished 28th.

Our PHS cross country team wrapped up its season at the Tremont Invite! 4-year runner Jesse Woo Placed 10th overall. 2-year runner and senior Alvin Edwards placed fourth overall. 1st Year runner, sophomore Allannah Jackson placed 23rd overall.
Sports

Give me an L. Give me an I. Give me an O. Give me a N. Give me a S. What does that spell? Lions!! Goooo Lions!

PHS Cheer and dance teams gave it their all entertaining the crowd and pumping up the team.
Student Life

HOMECOMING 2021

The scenes from the Homecoming include Asst. Principal Ms. Skahill rocking her pajamas on the spirit day.

The class competition games were competitive. The freshmen were able to show off their athletic skills in the plunger race until a plunger malfunction.

The cheerleaders demonstrated their spirit and threw out t-shirts to the crowd. Below, left Macy Webster gets shirts to classmates Kammie Hess and Autumn Beasley.

Center top, Mrs. Shepherd and the band warm up before the homecoming football game. Bottom right, the band perform as the crowd arrives for the assembly.

FACES of DETERMINATION

Junior Krisdon Marquardt is determined to win this game to get the points that will pull the juniors ahead in the class competition.
Mrs. Cannon challenges Mr. Wuellner to a connect 4 game.

Mrs. Gashaw watches as Diangelo Boone makes his Jenga move.

As part of the last SIP day students bought out to participate in either an art activity, games, a study hall or outdoor field games.

Students in the complex gym played a variety gym games. Outside, Coach Deg in red challenged Coach McGinnis in blue to a sumo wrestling contest.

In the afternoon, teachers had several meetings and then went to the gym for a team building activity. Blindfolder teachers were guided by other staff as they played dodgeball.

Mrs. Aldridge plays cards with some of her students.

Coach McGinnis introduces a few students to the game of Operation.

Mr. Grimm and Mr. McGinnis try to hear their coaches guide them to find a ball during the dodgeball game.
Logic Puzzle

Each teacher below will be starting an after school club, has been assigned to a room for that club and will hold their meetings for different amount of times. Each only applies to one person – there is only 1 yes in each row and column. Use the clues to figure out which teacher goes with what activity, what time and what room.

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Clues
1. Skahill, home repair, library, 60 minutes and the gym are all different clubs.
2. Teaching acting takes the most time.
3. McCormick picked the attic to have a quiet place with space to store his yard.
4. The home repair club has to be on the ground floor to get materials into the building.
5. The child care club wanted a room with carpet so that they could be on the floor.
7. Knitting takes less time than home repair and first aid.
8. Coleman only had 20 minutes to give to her club that loves working with children.
9. Scott meets with her group for an hour.

Lost Pets

On Halloween several teacher’s pets went missing. Can you match the teacher to their pet(s)?